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FROM THE DESK OF:

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COMM. 612/725-3548, ext. 207 FAX 612/725-3609 Gary Wege@fws.gov

DATE: 9-17-03

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PHONE: 952-912-2601

TO: Marty Smith, Associated Consultants, Inc., Minnetonka, MN

SUBJECT: Rushford Power Plant, Fillmore Co., MN, T104N, R8W, S14.

Dear Mr. Smith

This responds to your letter dated August 27, 2003, requesting information on federally threatened and endangered species for the above referenced project.

There are currently no federally endangered or threatened species known to occur at the specific location identified in your letter and accompanying materials. Consequently, we have determined that this project will not affect any federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. This precludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. However, if the project is modified or new information becomes available which indicates that listed species may occur in the affected area, consultation with this office should be reinitiated.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have questions regarding our comments, please call me at (612) 725-3548, extension 207.

Gary J. Wege Fish & Wildlife Biologist

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